

Excitonic Rayleigh scattering spectra of metallic single-walled carbon nanotubes

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We have performed microscopic calculations of the Rayleigh scattering cross section for arbitrary metallic single-walled carbon nanotubes. The focus of our investigations lies on excitonic effects and their influence on the characteristic features in a Rayleigh scattering spectrum. Our approach is based on density matrix theory including tight-binding energies, the carrier-light coupling as well as the carrier-carrier interaction. Due to the refractive index contribution to the scattering cross section, we observe characteristic features in Rayleigh spectra, such as a strong deviation from the Lorentz peak shape and the larger oscillator strength of the lower-lying transition M_{ii}^- in the double-peaked structure, independently of the chiral angle and the diameter of the investigated nanotubes. We observe excitonic binding energies in the range of 60 – 80 meV for metallic nanotubes with diameters of 1.5 – 2.5 nm. The overlap of the excitonic transition with the close-by continuum has a significant influence on the peak shape and a minor influence on the peak intensity ratios. The presented results are in good agreement with recent experimental data.

I. INTRODUCTION

Absorption, photoluminescence, and Raman scattering are standard spectroscopy methods to reveal optical properties of nanoscale objects.^{1,2} In particular, they have been applied to characterize carbon nanotubes (CNTs) of different chiral angle, diameter, and family.^{3–5} In 2004, Sfeir et al.⁶ introduced Rayleigh scattering as an additional powerful technique for identifying the optical finger print of individual single-walled CNTs. It allows the investigation of optical properties of *individual* CNTs, since the weak scattering signal is much easier to measure than e.g. the change in intensity due to the absorption. In combination with electron diffraction data, Rayleigh scattering spectroscopy has successfully been applied to determine the electronic structure of individual CNTs, in particular the predicted peak splitting in metallic tubes due to the trigonal warping effect^{7,8} was proven experimentally.⁹

Recently, excitonic effects in metallic nanotubes have been experimentally proved by measuring their Rayleigh spectra.^{10,11} Despite the large screening, metallic nanotubes were shown to exhibit binding energies around 50 meV, which is small comparing to semiconducting nanotubes,^{12,13} but still larger than the thermal energy at room temperature. The experimental data on excitonic Rayleigh scattering spectra has not yet been complemented by theoretical studies. In Refs. 14,15 we studied free-particle Rayleigh scattering spectra of metallic and semiconducting CNTs showing characteristic features in Rayleigh scattering spectra, which distinguish them from corresponding absorption spectra. In this work, we address the question on how the formation of Coulomb-bound electron-hole pairs, i.e. excitons, influences these features. We perform investigations on (i) the excitonic transition and excitonic binding energy, (ii) the trigonal warping splitting as a function of the diameter and the chiral angle, (iii) the relative oscillator strength in the double-peaked spectra of metallic nanotubes, and (iv) the peak shape in Rayleigh spectra of metallic and semiconducting nanotubes. Finally, we compare our results with recent experimental data.^{11,16}

II. RAYLEIGH SCATTERING CROSS SECTION

In our calculations, the Rayleigh scattering cross section is considered for incident light polarized along the nanotube axis accounting for the depolarization effect that strongly suppresses light polarized perpendicular to the nanotube axis.¹⁷ Here, we briefly summarize the derivation of the Rayleigh scattering cross section: Nanotubes are regarded as long cylinders with diameters small compared to the wavelength of light. Starting from Maxwell equations, the expression for $\sigma(\omega)$ can be derived by solving the scalar wave equation in cylindrical coordinates,¹⁸ and exploiting the limit of small nanotube radii. The scattering cross section is given by the ratio of the rate

$$W_s = \int_A \mathbf{S}_s \cdot \mathbf{e}_r dA, \quad (1)$$

at which energy passes through the scattering surface A and the incident irradiance. The rate W_s is determined by the radial component of the Poynting vector of the scattered field $\mathbf{S}_s = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}[\mathbf{E}_s \times \mathbf{H}_s^*]$. By introducing vector cylindrical harmonics¹⁸ $\mathbf{M} = \nabla \times (\mathbf{e}_z \psi)$ and $\mathbf{N} = k^{-1} \nabla \times \mathbf{M}$ with a scalar function ψ , the wave number k , and the unit vector \mathbf{e}_z parallel to the cylinder axis the problem can be simplified, since these functions satisfy both the vectorial and the scalar wave equation. Once they are calculated, the electric and magnetic field \mathbf{E}_s and \mathbf{H}_s can be expanded in \mathbf{M} and \mathbf{N} . The scalar function ψ is called a generating function for the vector harmonics \mathbf{M} and \mathbf{N} . Its choice depends on the investigated system, its symmetries and boundary conditions. For Rayleigh scattering from a cylinder, the scalar function has to satisfy the wave equation in cylindrical polar coordinates. An ansatz for the solution is $\psi(\rho, \phi, z) = Z_n(r) e^{in\phi} e^{ihz}$ with $Z_n(r)$ as Bessel functions of first and second kind of integral order n and with $r = \sqrt{k^2 - h^2}$. The quantum number h satisfies the boundary conditions between the cylinder and the surrounding medium. Within the limit of small particles, i.e. for cylinders with a diameter much smaller than the wavelength of light ($\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} \ll 1$

with \mathbf{k} as the wave vector of light and \mathbf{r} as the radius of the cylinder), the scattering cross section $\sigma(\omega)$ per unit length can be expressed via the linear susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$ as

$$\sigma(\omega) = \frac{\pi^2}{4c^3} r^4 \omega^3 |\chi(\omega)|^2, \quad (2)$$

where ω is the angular frequency of the light and c the speed of light. In contrast to the scattering from a sphere, the cross section is proportional to ω^3 instead of ω^4 . This can be traced back to the scattered field E_s , which is given asymptotically by $E_s \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{kr}}$ far away from a cylinder, while for a sphere it is $E_s \propto \frac{1}{kr}$. The strength of the Rayleigh scattering is determined by the square of the absolute value of the optical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$. In contrast to the absorption coefficient¹⁹ $\alpha \propto \text{Im}\chi(\omega)$, Rayleigh scattering has also a contribution from the real part of $\chi(\omega)$ and, hence, includes the influence of the resonant refractive index $n(\omega) \propto \text{Re}\chi(\omega)$ of optical transitions. This leads to important differences in the characteristics of Rayleigh and absorption spectra, which are discussed below.

III. DENSITY MATRIX APPROACH

To obtain the Rayleigh scattering cross section, we need the optical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$, which is the linear response function of the perturbed system. Within the $\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{A}$ approach for the light-matter interaction, it reads²⁰

$$\chi(\omega) = \frac{j(\omega)}{\epsilon_0 \omega^2 A(\omega)} \quad (3)$$

with the externally driven current density $j(\omega)$ and the vector potential $A(\omega)$. The current density depends on the Fourier transform of the microscopic polarization $p_{\mathbf{k}}(t)$ and the optical matrix element $M_{vc}^z(\mathbf{k})$ along the nanotube axis (here, z-axis)^{19,21}

$$j(t) = -i \frac{2e_0 \hbar}{m_0} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \text{Re}(M_{vc}^z(\mathbf{k}) p_{\mathbf{k}}(t)). \quad (4)$$

The microscopic polarization $p_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = \langle a_{\lambda\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\lambda'\mathbf{k}} \rangle(t)$ is a measure for the transition probability between the two states $|\lambda\mathbf{k}\rangle$ and $|\lambda'\mathbf{k}\rangle$, where λ, λ' stand for the band index and \mathbf{k} for the wave vector. Our approach is formulated within the formalism of second quantization with $a_{\lambda\mathbf{k}}$ and $a_{\lambda\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$ as annihilation and creation operators.²¹ As a result, the knowledge of $p_{\mathbf{k}}(t)$ allows the calculation of the current density $j(\omega)$, which is required to obtain the optical susceptibility $\chi(\omega)$. Finally, $\chi(\omega)$ determines the Rayleigh scattering cross section $\sigma(\omega)$, cp. Eq.(2).

The temporal dynamics of $p_{\mathbf{k}}(t)$ is determined within the Heisenberg equation of motion $i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} p_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = [p_{\mathbf{k}}(t), H]$ with the Hamilton operator

$$H = H_{0,c} + H_{c-f} + H_{c-c}, \quad (5)$$

which determines the dynamics of a physical system. The first two terms describe the non-interacting carrier system in

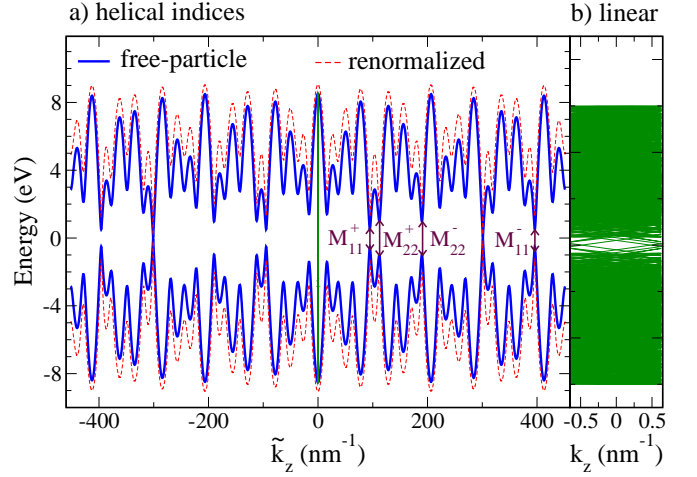


Figure 1: Band structure of the (22,13) nanotube calculated with a) helical quantum numbers (\tilde{k}_z, \tilde{m}) and b) linear quantum numbers (k_z, m) . While there is only one helical subband \tilde{m} with a large Brillouin zone (BZ), 626 linear subbands m with a small BZ need to be calculated. The red dashed line shows the renormalized band structure due to the electron-electron interaction. The arrows indicate the energetically lowest optical transitions, cp. Fig. 3.

the presence of the external electromagnetic field. In this work, a semiclassical approach is applied, i.e. the charge carriers are treated quantum mechanically, while the field is considered to be classical. The carrier-field interaction reads $H_{c-f} = i \frac{e_0 \hbar}{m_0} \sum_{l,l'} \mathbf{M}_{l,l'} \cdot \mathbf{A}(t) a_l^\dagger a_{l'}$ with the optical matrix elements $\mathbf{M}_{l,l'}$, the vector potential $A(t)$, the electron mass m_0 , and the elementary charge e_0 . The carrier-carrier interaction is given by $H_{c-c} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l_1, l_2, l_3, l_4} W_{l_3, l_4}^{l_1, l_2} a_{l_1}^\dagger a_{l_2}^\dagger a_{l_3} a_{l_4}$ with the Coulomb matrix elements $W_{l_3, l_4}^{l_1, l_2}$. The single-particle energy $\epsilon_{\mathbf{k}}$ required in the free carrier contribution $H_{0,c} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{k}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{k}}$ is determined within the nearest-neighbor tight-binding (TB) approach.²²

The periodic boundary conditions around the nanotube cir-

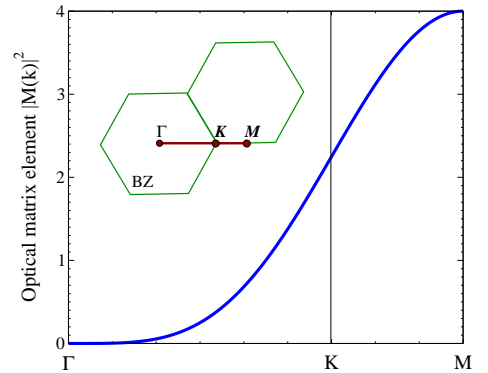


Figure 2: Square of the absolute value of the optical matrix element $M_{vc}(\mathbf{k})$ along the $\Gamma K M$ high-symmetry line in the Brillouin zone of graphene, cp. the inset. Note, that the matrix element has a smaller absolute value on the $K\Gamma$ than on the KM -side.

cumference are considered by restricting the allowed wave vectors \mathbf{k} to lines in the graphene Brillouin zone (zone-folding approximation).¹ The two-dimensional wave vector \mathbf{k} decouples in a continuous component k_z along the nanotube axis and a perpendicular quantized component $k_\perp = \frac{2}{d}m$ with the diameter d and the subband index m . Since nanotubes are described by line groups containing a screw axis, two different sets of quantum numbers are possible: linear (k_z, m) and helical (\tilde{k}_z, \tilde{m}) quantum numbers.²³ The linear $k_z \in (-\frac{\pi}{a}, \frac{\pi}{a}]$ corresponds to the pure translational subgroup of the line group. Here, a stands for the translational period along the tube axis. The linear momentum along the tube axis is a conserved quantity. However, the quasi-angular momentum $m \in (-\frac{q}{2}, \frac{q}{2}]$ (with q as the number of hexagons in the nanotube unit cells) contains both pure rotations and screw axis operations. As a result, m is not fully conserved and Umklapp rules need to be taken into account, when the Brillouin zone or the Γ point are crossed.¹ In contrast, the helical angular momentum $\tilde{m} \in (-\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2}]$ is a conserved quantity, since it corresponds to pure rotations of the nanotube. The number of helical subbands is considerably smaller compared to linear indices, see Fig. 1. The Brillouin zone, however, is larger with $\tilde{k}_z \in (-\frac{q}{n} \frac{\pi}{a}, \frac{q}{n} \frac{\pi}{a}]$, where n is the greatest common divisor of the chiral indices n_1 and n_2 . Figure 1 illustrates the two different sets of quantum numbers by plotting the band structure of the metallic (22, 13) nanotube. In this work, we have applied helical indices taking all subbands and the full Brillouin zone into account.

Note, that for nanotubes with small diameters hybridization effects might play an important role.²⁴ Here, the zone-folded tight-binding wave functions can be inappropriate. In particular, these curvature effects have been shown to significantly contribute to the wide family spread in Kataura plots.²⁵ Furthermore, the nearest-neighbor tight-binding approach is known to be a good approximation for transitions close to the K point, whereas it is often insufficient to model peak positions at higher energies. However, in our work we focus on characteristic peak shapes and relative peak intensities in Rayleigh scattering spectra for metallic and semiconducting nanotubes, where we expect hybridization effects to play a minor role.

The optical matrix element $M_{vc}(\mathbf{k}) = \langle \psi_v(\mathbf{k}) | \nabla | \psi_c(\mathbf{k}) \rangle$, cp. Fig. 2, and the Coulomb matrix element $W_{34}^{12} = \langle \psi_1 \psi_2 | W_{Coul} | \psi_3 \psi_4 \rangle$ with the screened Coulomb potential W_{34}^{12} enter into the carrier-light Hamiltonian H_{c-f} and the Coulomb Hamiltonian H_{c-c} in Eq.(5), respectively. They are calculated analytically by applying the zone-folded tight-binding wave functions $\psi(k)$.¹ Then, all necessary ingredients are available to determine the temporal evolution of the microscopic polarization $p_{\mathbf{k}}$ yielding^{21,26}

$$\dot{p}_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = -i\tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{k}}p_{\mathbf{k}}(t) + i\tilde{\Omega}_{\mathbf{k}}(t) - \gamma p_{\mathbf{k}}(t). \quad (6)$$

This Bloch equation is valid in the limiting case of linear optics, where the driving field is considered to be small resulting in negligible change in occupation in valence and conduction band.²⁷ The dynamics of a system is fully determined by the microscopic polarization $p_{\mathbf{k}}$. The Coulomb interaction is considered within the Hartree-Fock level.^{21,26} The Rabi fre-

quency

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = \frac{e_0}{m_0} M_z^{cv}(\mathbf{k}) A(t) - \frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} W_{e-h}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}') p_{\mathbf{k}'}$$

in Eq.(6) describes the Coulomb renormalized strength of the electron-light interaction. The term includes the renormalization due to the attractive electron-hole interaction^{21,26} $W_{e-h}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$. This term describes the formation of excitons. The strong Coulomb interaction in carbon nanotubes mixes the degenerate states at the K and K' point resulting in a partial lifting of the degeneracy and the formation of bright and dark excitonic states.²⁵ In the following, our investigations focus on the optically active (bright) states.

The band gap energy

$$\tilde{\omega}_{\mathbf{k}} = (\omega_c(\mathbf{k}) - \omega_v(\mathbf{k})) - \frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{\mathbf{k}'} W_{e-e}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$$

contains the renormalization due to the electron-electron coupling $W_{e-e}(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{k}')$ corresponding to the self-energy correction, see the red curve in Fig. 1. The Coulomb interaction is screened within the static limit of the Lindhard equation.²⁷ The Coulomb matrix elements are calculated within the tight-binding approximation by introducing a regularized Coulomb potential, which is parametrized by the Ohno potential.^{25,28} More details can be found in Ref. 26. A phenomenological parameter $\gamma = (0.0125/\hbar)\text{eV}$ is included into Eq.(6), which determines the linewidth in the calculated spectra.²⁹ The parameter describes dephasing processes resulting e.g. from electron-phonon interaction. The influence of phonons and in particular the investigation of phonon sidebands due to the exciton-phonon coupling is beyond the scope of this work and will be in focus of future studies. However, there are simulations on intersubband transitions predicting weak phonon satellites.³⁰

The presented approach is similar to the Bethe Salpeter method²⁵ within the Hartree Fock level. The advantage of the density matrix theory lies in particular in the description of the ultrafast relaxation dynamics of non-equilibrium charge carriers allowing a microscopic access to their time and momentum-resolved scattering dynamics.³¹

IV. RAYLEIGH SCATTERING SPECTRA

Figure 3 shows exemplary the excitonic Rayleigh scattering spectrum of the (22, 13) metallic nanotube. It is characterized by a series of well-pronounced peaks stemming from optical transitions between conduction and valence bands, cp. the arrows in Fig. 1. For light polarized along the nanotube axis, transitions are allowed between electronic states with $\Delta m = 0$ due to symmetry-imposed selection rules. As a result, the absorption probability is particularly large for transitions between the first valence band v_1 to the first conduction band c_1 at a minimal energy E_{11} , followed by the transition $v_2 \rightarrow c_2$ at E_{22} , etc. The corresponding peaks in the spectrum of metallic tubes are denoted with M_{11} , M_{22} , etc. Figure 3 illustrates several characteristic features of Rayleigh scattering spectra of

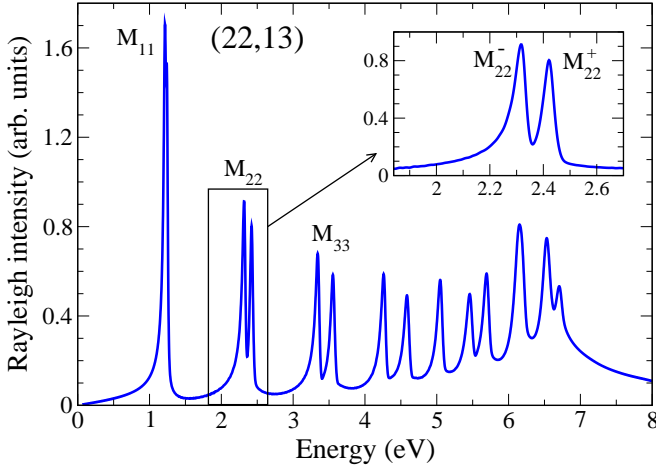


Figure 3: The figure shows the Rayleigh scattering spectrum for the exemplary metallic (22,13) nanotube. The inset is a blow-up of the third and forth transitions M_{22}^- and M_{22}^+ exhibiting characteristic features, such as the peak splitting and the asymmetry at the low-energy side of the transitions. Note, that the first transition M_{11} also shows a small splitting, which can be resolved.

metallic carbon nanotubes: (i) a pronounced double-peaked structure of the optical transitions due to the trigonal warping effect, (ii) stronger intensity of the lower-lying transitions, i.e. the oscillator strength of M_{ii}^- is larger than of M_{ii}^+ , and (iii) an asymmetry towards lower energies corresponding to an enhanced cross section $\sigma(\omega)$ at the lower-energy wing.

Figure 4a) shows a comparison between the Rayleigh scattering spectrum and the absorption spectrum of the exemplary metallic (22,13) nanotube. The largest difference is obtained with respect to the peak shape. The absorption peaks are Lorentzians reflecting the dependence of the absorption coefficient on $\text{Im}\chi(\omega)$. In contrast, the shape of Rayleigh peaks is more complicated showing deviations from the Lorentzian shape on both lower and higher energy side. This can be explained by the interference with the real part of the optical susceptibility, since the Rayleigh scattering cross section is given by $|\chi(\omega)|^2$, as discussed below in detail. Furthermore, the peaks are slightly red-shifted and the intensity ratio is reversed compared to the absorption spectrum.

Figure 4b) shows the difference between the excitonic and the corresponding free-particle Rayleigh spectrum of the (22,13) nanotube. The figure illustrates the excitonic effects on Rayleigh scattering spectra: (i) a considerable blue-shift of the free-particle transition energies, as already shown for absorption spectra^{21,26,31}, (ii) the asymmetry towards lower energies remains unchanged, when excitonic effects are included, (iii) the intensity ratio of the double-peaked structure is slightly increased, and (iv) the cross section at the higher-energy side of transitions is reduced. In the following paragraphs, the observed characteristic features of excitonic Rayleigh scattering spectra are discussed in detail.

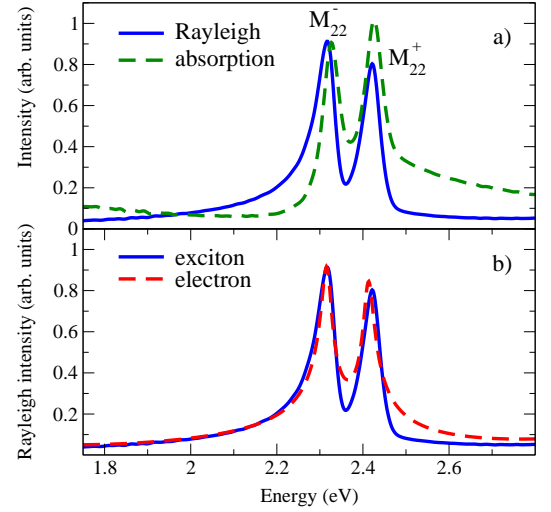


Figure 4: a) Comparison between the peak shape in the excitonic Rayleigh scattering and the excitonic absorption spectrum of the exemplary (22,13) nanotube. The absorption intensity is normalized to the M_{22}^- Rayleigh peak. Note the different behavior of the intensity ratio in Rayleigh and absorption spectra. b) Illustration of the peak shape within the free-particle and the excitonic calculation of the Rayleigh scattering cross section of the (22,13) nanotube. The figure shows the transitions M_{22}^- and M_{22}^+ . Since only the peak shape and the relative intensity are in the focus of investigation, the free-particle spectrum is rescaled in intensity and shifted in energy according to the excitonic shift.

A. Excitonic binding energies

Excitonic effects significantly influence optical properties of carbon nanotubes, as shown for absorption spectra in many previous reports.^{21,25,29,31–35} Excitonic binding energies in the range of 300–400 meV have been observed for semiconducting^{12,13} and in the range of 100 meV for metallic nanotubes.¹⁰ Our investigation on Rayleigh scattering spectra are in good agreement with these findings. We observe strong shifts due to the formation of bound electron-hole pairs. The binding energies are around 60–80 meV for investigated metallic nanotubes with $d \approx 1.5 - 2.5$ nm. For semiconducting nanotubes, we observe excitonic binding energies in the range of 200–400 meV.

Our approach allows the investigation of a large variety of different carbon nanotubes. The calculation of the Kataura plot reveals the diameter and the chirality dependence of the excitonic transition and binding energy. As already reported in literature,²⁵ it exhibits main $1/d$ lines for each transition M_{ii} and a characteristic V-shaped structure reflecting the chirality dependence of the trigonal-warping splitting.

B. Trigonal warping peaks splitting

Trigonal warping describes the deviation of the equi-energy contours from circles in the Brillouin zone of graphene around the K point.^{7,8} Due to its trigonal shape, an energy splitting

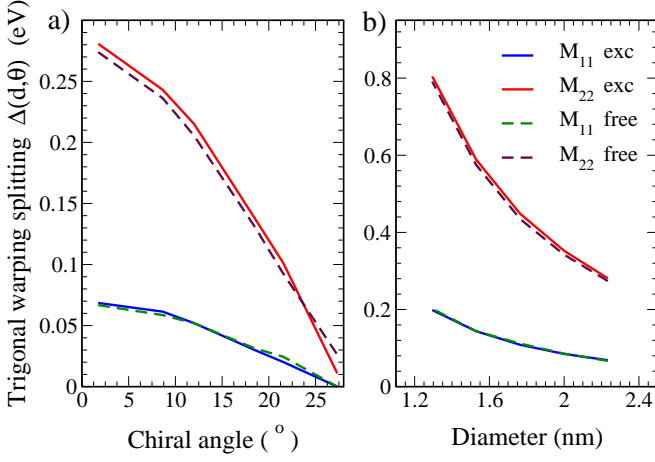


Figure 5: Trigonal warping splitting $\Delta(d, \theta)$ as a function of a) the chiral angle θ (at a nearly constant diameter $d_0 \approx 2.3$ nm) and b) the diameter d (at a nearly constant chiral angle $\theta_0 \approx 2 - 3^\circ$) for metallic nanotubes.

of Van-Hove singularities stemming from different sides with respect to the K point appears. This strongly depends on the orientation of the triangle: The splitting is maximal for nanotubes with a small chiral angle and it vanishes for armchair tubes. Furthermore, the higher the transition energy, the larger is the trigonal warping effect, since the deviation from circles is larger. Figure 5 shows the peak splitting $\Delta(d, \theta)$ as a function of the chiral angle and the diameter for metallic nanotubes for both the excitonic and the free-particle picture. First, we observe that excitons do not influence the trigonal warping induced splitting. Second, we find that the splitting scales with diameter d as $\Delta(d, \theta_0) \propto A/d^2$ at a constant chiral angle θ_0 . The coefficient A only depends on the order of the transition. The larger the diameter, the smaller is the transition energy and the weaker is the trigonal warping effect. For the dependence on the chiral angle θ , the scaling law is $\Delta(d_0, \theta) \propto A_1 - A_2 \theta^2$ at a nearly constant diameter d_0 confirming that the splitting is maximal for zigzag nanotubes with $\theta = 0^\circ$ and zero for armchair tubes with $\theta = 30^\circ$.

C. Peak intensity ratio

The lower-lying transitions within the double-peaked structure of Rayleigh scattering spectra show a higher oscillator strength independently of the chiral angle and diameter, i.e. M_{ii}^- is always higher in intensity than M_{ii}^+ . The intensity ratio $R_{ii} = I(M_{ii}^-)/I(M_{ii}^+)$ increases with decreasing chiral angle. In the limiting case of armchair nanotubes, the ratio is exactly 1 due to vanishing splitting. The described behavior of peak intensity ratios is not significantly influenced by excitons.

The relative intensities can be explained by the different behavior of the optical matrix element $M_{vc}(k)$ entering in H_{c-f} along the two high-symmetry lines $K\Gamma$ and KM in the graphene BZ.¹⁵ The carrier-field interaction turns out to be higher on the KM side, cp. Fig. 2. As a result, the lower-lying

transitions in the double-peaked structure stemming from the KM side³⁶ are amplified. Following this argumentation, the intensity ratio should increase with the order of transition. However, the dependence of the scattering cross section $\sigma(\omega)$ on ω^3 cancels this effect, since the energetically higher transition M_{ii}^+ is enhanced with respect to M_{ii}^- resulting in a decrease of the intensity ratio.

Another interesting observation is the inverse intensity ratio $R_{ii} < 1$ in absorption spectra, cp. Fig. 4a). This can be ascribed to the overlap of the M_{ii}^+ peak with the Van-Hove singularity associated with M_{ii}^- . The high-energy tail of the Van-Hove singularity enhances the intensity of M_{ii}^+ leading to an intensity ratio R_{ii} smaller than 1. In the case of Rayleigh scattering, the overlap with the continuum is smaller, since here the continuum is not characterized by a Van Hove singularity. As a result, the intensity ratio R_{ii} remains larger than 1 - as expected from the family behavior of the optical matrix element.

D. Peak shape

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate the characteristic peak shape of an exemplary metallic and a semiconducting nanotube in excitonic (solid blue lines) and free-particle (solid red lines) Rayleigh scattering and absorption spectra, respectively. For comparison, the figures also show a fit with a Lorentzian in the background (dashed green lines). Rayleigh peaks are shown to be asymmetric towards lower energies reflecting an enhanced cross section $\sigma(\omega)$ at the lower-energy wing, cp. Fig. 6. This can be traced back to the refractive part of the optical susceptibility. The latter exhibits a long tail on the low energy side of each transition, which adds up with the resonant response leading to the observed asymmetry. Both metallic and

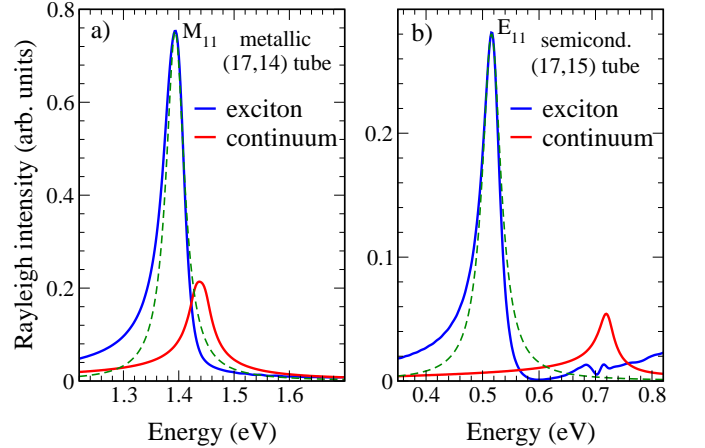


Figure 6: Rayleigh scattering spectra of an exemplary a) metallic and b) semiconducting nanotube. The figure shows the excitonic transition and the continuum (containing the bandstructure renormalization due to the electron-electron coupling). The peak shape is fitted with a Lorentzian with a width of approximately 40 meV (dashed lines).

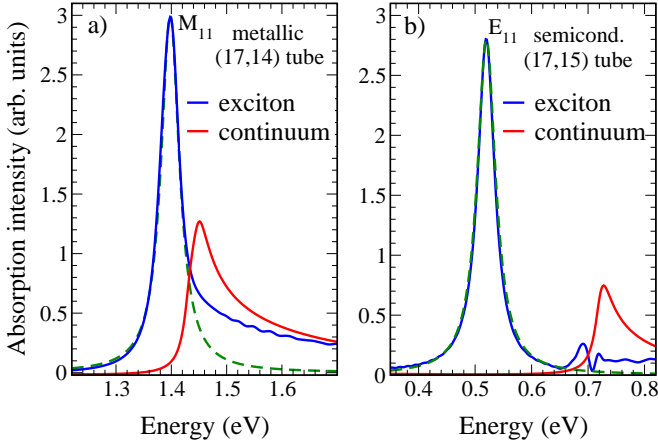


Figure 7: The same as in Fig. 6, but showing excitonic and free-particle absorption spectra of an exemplary a) metallic and b) semiconducting nanotube. The figure also exhibits the formation of higher excitonic states in the spectra of semiconducting CNTs corresponding to the Rydberg series in the hydrogen atom.

semiconducting nanotubes exhibit this characteristic asymmetry leading to a considerable broadening of the “Lorentzian-like” Rayleigh peaks¹¹ - in contrast to the corresponding peaks in the absorption spectra, cp. Fig. 7.

Furthermore, we observe an interesting feature on the high-energy side of metallic nanotubes. Here, two effects are competing: On the one side, the spectrally decaying refractive index leads to a reduction of the scattering cross section. On the other hand, due to the small binding energies there is an overlap between the excitonic transition and the continuum lifting up the intensity. As a result, the overall reduction is much smaller compared to semiconducting nanotubes, where the excitonic binding energy is large and the overlap with the continuum is negligibly small.

For comparison, Fig. 7 shows the peak shape in excitonic and free-particle absorption spectra for the same exemplary metallic and semiconducting nanotube as in Fig. 6. Since the absorption coefficient is determined only by the imaginary part of the optical susceptibility, the asymmetry to lower energies and the resulting broadening are not present in absorption spectra. The peaks are perfect Lorentzians (dashed line) reflecting the excitonic character of the transition. There is no interference with the refractive part of the response function resulting in narrow peaks with a width of 40 meV determined by the parameter γ entering Eq.(6). Note that the peak shape of metallic nanotubes exhibits a higher-energy shoulder due to the small excitonic binding energies and the resulting overlap with the continuum.³⁵

E. Comparison to experiment

Figure 8 illustrates the good agreement of theoretical and experimental Rayleigh scattering spectra for two exemplary metallic tubes. Including excitonic effects even further im-

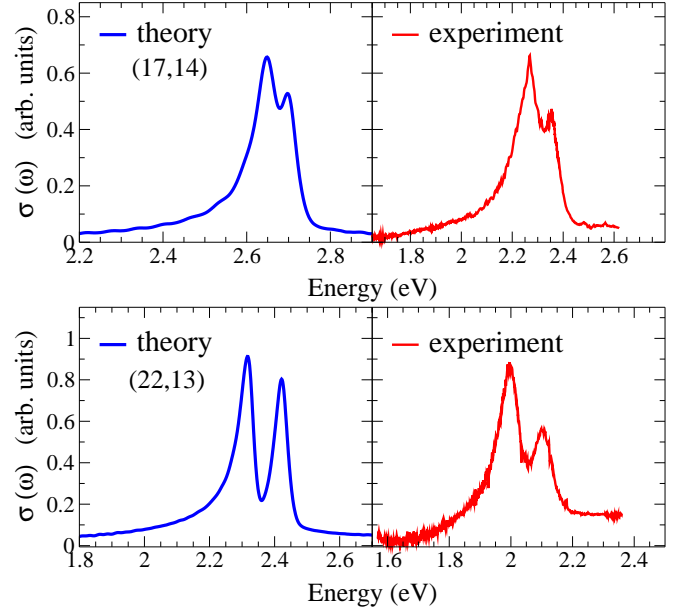


Figure 8: Comparison between the experimental and theoretical excitonic Rayleigh scattering spectra for the (17, 14) and the (22, 13) metallic nanotubes. The experimental results are taken from Ref. 16.

proved the comparison with the experiment.^{15,16} As predicted in theory, the experimentally observed Rayleigh spectra show a double-peaked structure with a clearly enhanced scattering intensity at the lower energy wing of transitions. Furthermore, the oscillator strength of the first peak in the double-peaked structure is found to be stronger in intensity. This agrees well with the experiment, where the intensity ratio is even more pronounced. The calculated transition energies, however, differ from the experimental results. They are blue-shifted by approximately 0.3 – 0.4 eV compared to the experiment. This deviation can be traced back to the calculation of the band structure within the nearest-neighbor tight-binding approach, which is known to be a good description for transitions close to the K point.¹ For higher energies, however, a considerable blue-shift in comparison to third-nearest neighbor TB or first-principle calculations was observed.²² Extensions to third-nearest neighbor TB or extended TB calculations^{25,37} would further improve the comparison with experimental data.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have performed microscopic calculations of the Rayleigh scattering cross section including excitonic effects for arbitrary metallic single-walled carbon nanotubes. Our approach is based on the density matrix formalism combined with zone-folded tight-binding wave functions. While the absorption coefficient is given only by the imaginary part of the optical susceptibility, the Rayleigh scattering cross section also contains the influence of the real part corresponding to refractive index contribution. This leads to characteristic features in Rayleigh scattering spectra, such as

the strong deviation from the Lorentz peak shape exhibiting an enhanced cross section on the lower energy wing, and the larger oscillator strength of the lower-lying transition M_{ii}^- in the double-peaked structure independently of the chiral angle and the diameter of the investigated tubes. We discuss the influence of excitonic effects on these characteristic features including a study on the trigonal warping splitting.

The comparison with recent experimental data yields a good agreement with respect to the characteristic peak shape and the peak intensity ratios.

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